



Press Release

UNMEER SRSG Peter Graaff on visit to Guinea-Bissau

Bissau, 23 June 2015 – The Acting Special Representative of the UN Secretary-General and Head of the United Nations Mission for Ebola Emergency Response (UNMEER), Mr. Peter Graaff, is expected to be in Guinea-Bissau for a two-day official visit. The aim of this visit is to take stock of the current Ebola Virus Disease (EVD) prevention and preparedness efforts in the country and see with government how the UN can further mobilize support.

From 24 to 25 June Mr. Graaff will meet with top Guinea-Bissau officials, international partners; visit the EVD isolation and treatment site at the Simao Mendes National Hospital in Bissau. He will also travel to Contabane border post with Guinea Conakry.

To date, no confirmed cases of Ebola virus disease has been reported in Guinea-Bissau. However, the country remains at high risk given its proximity to Guinea, and the recent new cases in the Guinean Prefecture of Boké, bordering Guinea-Bissau.

In Guinea-Bissau, the United Nations and its partners have been providing support since early 2014 to the prevention and preparedness efforts of the Government, in line with its National Ebola Prevention and Response Plan. The UN Agencies have joined hands with MSF, IFRC, CDC, WB, AfDB, EU, along with other key international and national partners to strongly advocate and catalyze leadership, coordination and action for rapid establishment of the necessary national EVD preparedness and response components.

Mr. Graaff was the Ebola Crisis Manager for Liberia before being appointed as UNMEER Acting Special Representative. He brings to the position a wealth of experience in international health issues along with international affairs, having served extensively with the World Health Organization (WHO) in a number of countries in Africa, Afghanistan and Haiti, as well as leading the Civil Affairs and Development team for the United Nations Assistance Mission in Afghanistan (UNAMA).

UNIOGBIS/PIU